

# Back Sass Words

*The Great Challenge: Can you think of any problem, in any area of human endeavor, on any scale from microscopic to global, whose long-term solution is in any demonstrable way aided, assisted, or advanced by further increases in population, locally, nationally, or globally?* -Prof. Albert A. Bartlett, University of Colorado, 1999 -- web site: <http://www.ecofuture.org/ecofuture/populat.html>

*Crowded conditions and resource shortages will improve as we become less dense.* -Les U. Knight, Voluntary Human Extinction Movement, 1999 -- web site: <http://www.vhemt.org>

**dense** adj 1: marked by crowding together 2 a: marked by a stupid imperviousness to ideas: THICKHEADED  
b: EXTREME < ~ ignorance >

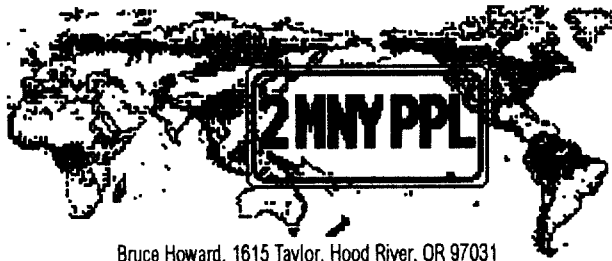
*We conclude that the most effective way an individual can protect the global environment, and hence protect the well being of all living people, is to abstain from creating another human.* -Prof. Charles Hall, et al. , 1994

*October 12, 1999, is the Day of Six Billion.* -United Nations, 1999

*Ethical economists will tell you that raising one child will cost you about about \$100,000 during the first 20 years. Having fewer children is a simple way to enhance your prosperity.* -Jerrod Hunter, 1999

1. Protect your great grandchildren's future
2. Reduce your consumption of Earth's scarce resources
3. Make your neighborhood a green zone
4. Restore habitats of endangered species
5. Fight sprawl, congestion, and pollution

-Interreligious Sustainability Project of Chicago distributed to congregations this 5-point call to action, 1999



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: DOCKET # 99P-0485

# HUMAN ANTIBIOTICS IN LIVESTOCK FEED

THE FDA MUST STOP THE USE OF HUMAN  
ANTIBIOTICS IN LIVESTOCK FEED.

*Bruce Howard*

# Words

## One Person's Obsession with Too Many People

I was born the last child of five to a pleasant and compassionate family that knew neither poverty nor prosperity. My father earned more and more as his family cost more and more. When I entered high school, the media claimed the world was a cornucopia of plenty and psychologists worried about what humans would do with all their free time. By high school graduation, jobs were scarce and college graduates with masters degrees were working at toll booths on the Golden Gate Bridge. In my first year of college, a professor assigned a thousand word essay on the solution to poverty, I wrote "Quit birthing." 500 times. I took dirty clothes to the laundromat after 11 p.m. when there were available washers and driers. I still avoid crowded times when doing errands at the bank, grocery, or hardware store. Other people also avoid crowds. I know. I see them there. I vacation at a lake cabin without electricity or phone.

The limits of a family are analogous to the limits of society. The house of Earth can hold more people, but already many people are sleeping in the barn, under bridges, and in cars. Workers produce more and more as society consumes more and more, yet only a small percent of our growing numbers enjoy actual abundance. The American Dream bubble has popped, and the reason governments "stay the course" is simple — the growing scarcity is highly profitable for that same small percentage.

When a corporation wants, say, to pump oil out of a wilderness, someone asks why the wilderness must be violated for a few year's worth of energy. Among the reasons will be—"for the good of humanity"—as if fossil fuel production is altruistic work performed by corporations for the well-being of you and me. Don't buy it, literally and figuratively. Each gallon of gasoline burned is stolen from your grandchildren.

"For the good of humanity"—If that is our concern, we should loudly advocate policies that reward those people with the fewest children and that punish those people whose technologies and actions

diminish the Earth's ability to support life.

Today our economic and political leaders still believe that growth is good, bigger is better, sprawl is progress. Their policies promote growth and continue the race between production and consumption. They can't imagine policies that promote quality over quantity. These grow-biggers have distracted us from thinking logically about supply exceeding demand. In the years of flat-earthers, social policies promoted growth and dominion over known lands. The leaders didn't imagine surplus frontiers existing beyond the seas. The ignorance of flat-earthers denied their society surplus frontiers; the ignorance of grow-biggers denies our society surplus production.

Politicians and economists ignore the physics of scarcity. After millennia of living on the interest of Earth's capital, we have in just this century put existence at risk by dipping into the Earth's capital, its natural resources. We claim that what's in, on, and above the ground is ours! Isn't it time to start looking at this issue logically?

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### CONTEST

(continued from page one)

Eventually our population will be equal to Earth's sustainable capacity. A retirement program (any policy) must make mathematical sense for a stable human family, or inevitably it will fail.

Finally, some people claim that the economic burden of caring for the increasing number of elders by a decreasing number of workers will cause nations to go into debt. Maybe, and arguing for more children to solve this imbalance is still not logical, is still the same chain-letter mentality. Instead, remember the burdens society willingly accepts. Our debts in the past have gone to expanding infrastructures, building schools, paving roads, and drilling wells. If populations are declining, society will be able to shift spending for growth to spending for retirement, and we can vote to pay public money to only those people who are poor enough to be socially insecure; people with plenty of money don't need a security system. The rich can wait until they are poor before they take from the public pocket.

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# A Few Words from our Sponsor . . .

Handmade gifts for 2MNYPPL are created by Alba Designs. Each is unique. Your purchase includes a gift e-mail subscription to Look at this logically for you or someone you choose who needs to know it or knows to use it. Thanks. Check, Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Call 541-386-6461, ask for Bruce. Monday-Friday, afternoons please. Shipping and handling free in U.S.

## **T-Shirts** (100% cotton, 5.8 oz. jersey knit, resists shrinking and fading)

It's black or white -- or gray, navy, cobalt, green, red, coral, lavender, celery, banana.

Size M, L, XL.

Cost - \$25.

Choose one of the following comments (on front or back):

**Name a social problem resolved by adding more people.**

**Make love, not people.**

**Growth is NOT always good.**

**More is NOT always better.**

**Quit birthing.**

**Growth is good and Earth is flat.**

**Traffic jams? 2MNYPPL.**

**Long lines? 2MNYPPL.**

**Rationing water? 2MNYPPL.**

**High prices? 2MNYPPL.**

**Campground full? 2MNYPPL.**

**2MNYPPL.**

(Or some comment of your own.)

No child, no one deserves a world where long life is a social problem  
Today, the fountain of youth is a curse, not a blessing..

**Buttons** — a 45 minute performance  
plus a facilitated discussion

Joaquin Alguer tells about the scientist who discovered the fountain  
of youth, and explains how he became her experiment.

In May 1998, Buttons premiered at the CAST Performing  
Arts Center in Hood River, Oregon.  
Write for schedule & script.

**People-Globe** \$29. (Shake the globe and see how many people fall off.)

**2MNYPPL** logo pin (millefiori polymer clay) - \$12.

**Songbird Necklace and Earrings** of millefiori beads (in gift box) - \$95.

**Family Tree Table Lamp** welded bronze 'tree' sculpture of human figures reaching for the light  
(bulb has clip shade) - \$389. (Sorry, Evolution Floor Lamp discontinued.)

\*\*\*\*Note: An idea is only as good as it's circulation. If 2MNYPPL is going to frappe' the 21st Century, I need your help. A purchase helps 2MNYPPL send Look at This Logically free of charge to people who need to know it or know to use it. The job is to put population issues, tender enough to be cut with a fork, on the dinner table of homes everywhere. The goal is to be superfluous.

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*Various businesses send me postage paid return envelopes, so I send back a copy of Look at This Logically. Maybe the employee who opens the envelope reads the issue during lunch, then leaves it on the table for the next person. -bh*

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# Look at this logically.

A quarterly report produced by 2MNYPPL. Our job is to put population issues, tender enough to cut with a fork, on the dinner table of every home. Our goal is to be superfluous.  
Written by Bruce Howard. Edited by Sally Donovan. Designed by Graphite Images

## Look at This Logically #10

written by Bruce Howard, produced by 2MNYPPL

Page 1. The contest goes on! The \$100 prize is still in the bank!

Page 2. Gifts from 2MNYPPL.

Page 3. Essay—One person's obsession with too many people.

Page 4. Quotes and resources.

## Any Last Words

Edition #9 of Look at This Logically posed this challenge:

Name a social problem remedied by our growing population.

Sounds easy, doesn't it? Name a social problem made better by crowding more people together, and send your explanation to 2MNYPPL. You may win \$100. The answer offered so far is one frequently presented by economists and media:

Answer: We need more children to have more workers to support retirees and save Social Security.

## SHOULD THIS IDEA WIN \$100?

*We need more children to have more workers to support retirees and save Social Security.*

Social problem: Too many retired people.

Explanation: A growing population increases the workers who pay tax.

2MNYPPL response: This idea does not win the prize.

The social problem is how to take care of aging citizens too poor to provide for themselves. Having more children will increase the numbers of people who work and then retire, adding to that group of aging citizens we can't provide care for now. This

*Now I'm making bets on which depleted resource will be first to pinch our lifestyle so severely that neither politician nor economist can find words to argue that growth is good.*

-bh

answer solves the problem only if the children are willing to labor until age 65 and then die.

Certain answers to a social problem are illogical. Even when applied for many years, the illogical does not become logical; however, the error in judgment becomes apparent. The Social Security System is an example. Some of the politicians who created this idea were repeating to themselves, "Who cares if the arithmetic doesn't add up, the voters believe it and me, and anyway, I won't be around when it fails."

But we are around, and we see it was absurd to expect nine workers to pay for the retirement of one person ad infinitum. The Social Security system is a national chain-letter that ~~has~~ rewards the earliest recipients and steals from the last who joined in. Social Security was never an honest investment scheme. Things change. People live longer. Birth rates fluctuate. Currently, about three workers pay for one worker's retirement, and politicians continue to tweak this chain-letter program. Look at This Logically #5 outlined a 4-point logical restructure of Social Security in the essay, A ruse by any other name is still a ruse.

1. Social Security tax is set at a rate appropriate to a stable population, with a cushion for minor fluctuations.

2. Retirement age is adjusted annually for average human longevity.

3. Social Security benefits equal a living wage adjusted for inflation or deflation, as well as age at retirement.

4. Benefits are progressive, less is paid to people who's capital wealth is more. The richest are not paid at all until they become poor enough to need a hand in the public till.

continued on page three...